

DIA

## UN DAY 2008



## United Nations

"The goals of this organisation cover five major areas: to promote peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, to eliminate poverty and illiteracy, to eradicate dangerous diseases, and to stop the destruction of the environment."

- Extract from a movie on the UN by Abhinav Menon, year 9.

"Nelson Mandela once stressed the importance of a collective effort to support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict and inspire hope where there is despair.

In the same spirit, let us put aside our differences in order to strengthen our efforts in doing whatever we set our minds to. Let us use today to rededicate ourselves to do what we can to help to fulfill a global mission. Let us be the generation that is known for rising above. Use today to make a promise not to stand on the sidelines as history is being written." Extract from speech by Anja Gullerfelt, year 11.

## Introduction

High school principal, Mr. Impey, began the assembly with an introduction thanking staff members, and all participating students. The MC Aahan Bhojani stressed the relevance of the UN in today's world and how a diverse school, such as DIA, should come together on this day and celebrate probably the most profoundly important organisation this world has ever seen, the **United Nations**. Next, Anja Gullerfelt delivered a powerful speech

promoting the good deeds of this phenomenal organisation, which made for the perfect lead into the UN video. This video, put together by year 9 student, Abhinav Menon, powerfully depicted the tragedies of the two World Wars. Moreover, it also emphasized how out of the ashes of such destruction and death, amounting to over 100 million casualties in total, rose something beautiful to protect and sustain the people for decades to come: The **United Nations**.



The presentation for years 10 to 13 also included a simulation of the United Nations Parliamentary Debate, whilst the presentation for years 7 to 9 included a quiz. The assembly drew to a close with Connie McHugh and Nikita Bala

singing the very apt song, *Imagine*, by John Lennon, and backed by the very talented DIA Rock Band. This, and Mr. Impey's closing thank you provided an appropriate closing to the assembly; hopefully leaving a seed for

thought in the minds of the next generation, who will inherit this world and thus the responsibility of its protection and the protection of those less fortunate than themselves within it.



*“What does  
United  
Nations Day  
mean to  
you?”*

**It means  
awareness. It can  
bring the world to-  
gether in many  
ways.**

**- Helen Dowse  
MYP Coordinator**



**UN Day is a day that  
should be dedicated to  
thinking about our fu-  
ture.**

**- Maira Kanai-Nasir  
Year 11**

## UN Simulation

One of the main attractions of the day was a UN Simulation conducted by students involved in the Model United Nations after-school club. Athbah Al Roum (representing Nigeria), Aman Ghose (representing Bangladesh), Vamika Bajaj (representing Brazil), Mikaela Hellman (representing Sweden), Nader Jouzy (representing China), Ammar Keshodia (representing

the USA) and Aahan Bhojani (the Secretary General) presented this UN simulation at the assembly for years 10 to 13. The simulation consisted of a heated debate in which the countries presented very realistic arguments concerning carbon emissions. In discussions Brazil, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Sweden reprimanded the USA and China for their high percentage of

emissions. In return, the USA and China assured other countries that they were indeed making efforts to reduce their carbon footprints. As a conclusion, the participants of the stimulation came up with a resolution, a set of steps that each member nation of the UN should take to solving the problem at hand. The simulation provided an informative glance at the inner-workings of the UN.

## UN Day Quiz

The year 7 to 9 assembly presented a competition worth watching, the finals of an inter-house quiz that began running last week. Its participants included students from the houses of Earth, Fire, Water, and Wind, with Mr. Hair presiding as the quiz master. The students were required to answer questions concerning the UN, the environment,

and world leaders. Halfway through the quiz, Water and Air were tied for first, with Fire in third place and Earth in fourth place. However, after the final question of the quiz, it was Water and Fire tied for first place, with Air coming in third, and Earth coming in last. The tie presented a query, who would win? Two tie-break questions later, it was announced that Water had

prevailed to become the first place champion. The members of the Water quiz team received gift vouchers worth 50 AED at Borders, rewarding them for their outstanding performance and knowledge.

The winning team was made up of Samarth from year 7, Leoni from year 8 and Georgia from year 9.







## Imagine, John Lennon

The main musical attraction of the day featured **Imagine**, a song written by John Lennon. It was performed by the DIA Rock Band, with help from the year 11 music class.

The lyrics of this song are thought-provoking and reflect the simplicity of a world of peace.

Here is an extract:

*Imagine there's no Heaven,  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us only sky  
Imagine all the people  
Living for today*

*Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion too  
Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace*

*You may say that I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one.*



*“How do you  
feel the UN  
benefits you  
and the rest  
of the  
world?”*

## Seeds of Change

What is going on? A minority of all people in the world live comfortable lives but use up most of the energy that is provided, while all the others live in poverty and struggle to survive.

At the same time we are destroying the world in which we live, polluting the air, poisoning the rivers and driving other species to extinction.

Global warming may seem like a complex problem, but since it was brought upon this world by us we should be able to solve it too.

“The achievement of our goal is assured the moment we commit ourselves to it.” - Mack.R. Douglas

**Everyone can make a difference; learn how you can empower yourself and become part of a solution for global warming through four main steps.**




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UN makes us aware of world problems and gives everyone a platform where they can express their opinions.  
- Amrit Shivlani  
- Mallika Auplish  
Year 13

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## Reflection

We need to reflect on our daily lives to understand the connection to environmental problems.

## Empowerment

We must set ourselves goals. Goals that inspire us to take concrete steps, because everyone can make a difference.

## Education

“In the end we will conserve only what we love, we love only what we understand, and we understand only what we are taught”-Baba Dioum  
It's education that provides change.

## Understanding

We need to know the causes for driving environmental destruction. We need to embrace the pain of others as our own, and understand the realities of those who suffer.





## UN Kiosk

*Throughout the week a United Nations Kiosk has been open at lunch time . They have been selling UN Day Cards, Peace Ribbons and UN Day Shirts. These are all simple things that make a statement and support the right cause. During this time, more than 800 AED was collected , and all the proceeds will go to a UN - based charity.*



## Miscellaneous

If you were Secretary General of the UN, what would be the first action you would take?



I would ensure that generic medicines were available in all parts of the developing world at very low cost and that free education was made available throughout the world.

**- Robert Jennings**  
Dean of Students



Why should we take responsibility to keep the world clean?

It belongs to all of us and it sustains us.

**- Bhanu Shankar**  
MUN Coordinator

Why should we take responsibility to keep the world clean?

We are just looking after the place for the next generation. I mean I'm lucky if I have another 50 years, plus I love greenery.

**- Richard Evans**  
Science Teacher

### UN Day Press Team

**Journalists:**

**Abby Christy**

**Charlotte Hammonds**

**Rana AlKady**

**Marlous van Boldrik**

**Photographer:**

**Maira Kanai-Nasir**

**Editors:**

**Kerry Wahba**

**Anja Gullerfelt**